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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/537,407	06/02/2005	Shigehiko Imagawa	273056US0PCT	4976
22850	7590	03/18/2008	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			O'DELL, DAVID K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1625	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/18/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com
oblonpat@oblon.com
jgardner@oblon.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/537,407	Applicant(s) IMAGAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner David K. O'Dell	Art Unit 1625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 31-45 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application is a national stage of PCT/JP03/15589 filed 12/05/2003 which claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Application: 60/431,234 file 12/06/2002.
2. Claims 1-45 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claims 1-15, drawn to compounds and compositions with a pyridyl-piperidinyl-pyridyl core where in formula 1 claim 1, l is 1; m is 0, X is NR₄, R₄ is phenyl, W1 = W2 = N, shown as structure **I** figure 1, If this group is elected, a further election of a single disclosed species is also required.

Group II, claims 1-15 drawn to compounds and compositions with a phenyl-piperidinyl-pyridyl core where in formula 1 claim 1, l is 1; m is 0, X is NR₄, R₄ is phenyl, W1 = CH, W2 = N, shown as structure **II** figure 1. If this group is elected, a further election of a single disclosed species is also required.

Group III, claims 1-15 drawn to compounds and compositions with a pyridyl-piperidinyl-phenyl core where in formula 1 claim 1, l is 1; m is 0, X is NR₄, R₄ is phenyl, W1 = N, W2 = CH, shown as structure **III** figure 1. If this group is elected, a further election of a single disclosed species is also required.

Group IV, claims 1-15 drawn to compounds and compositions with a phenyl-piperidinyl-phenyl core where in formula 1 claim 1, l is 1; m is 0, X is NR₄, R₄ is phenyl, W1 = CH, W2 = CH, shown as structure **IV** figure 1. If this group is elected, a further election of a single disclosed species is also required.

Group V, claims 1-15 drawn to compounds and compositions with a phenyl-pyrrolidinyl-phenyl core where in formula 1 claim 1, l is 0; m is 0, X is NR₄, R₄ is phenyl, W1 = CH, W2 = CH. If this group is elected, a further election of a single disclosed species is also required.

Art Unit: 1625

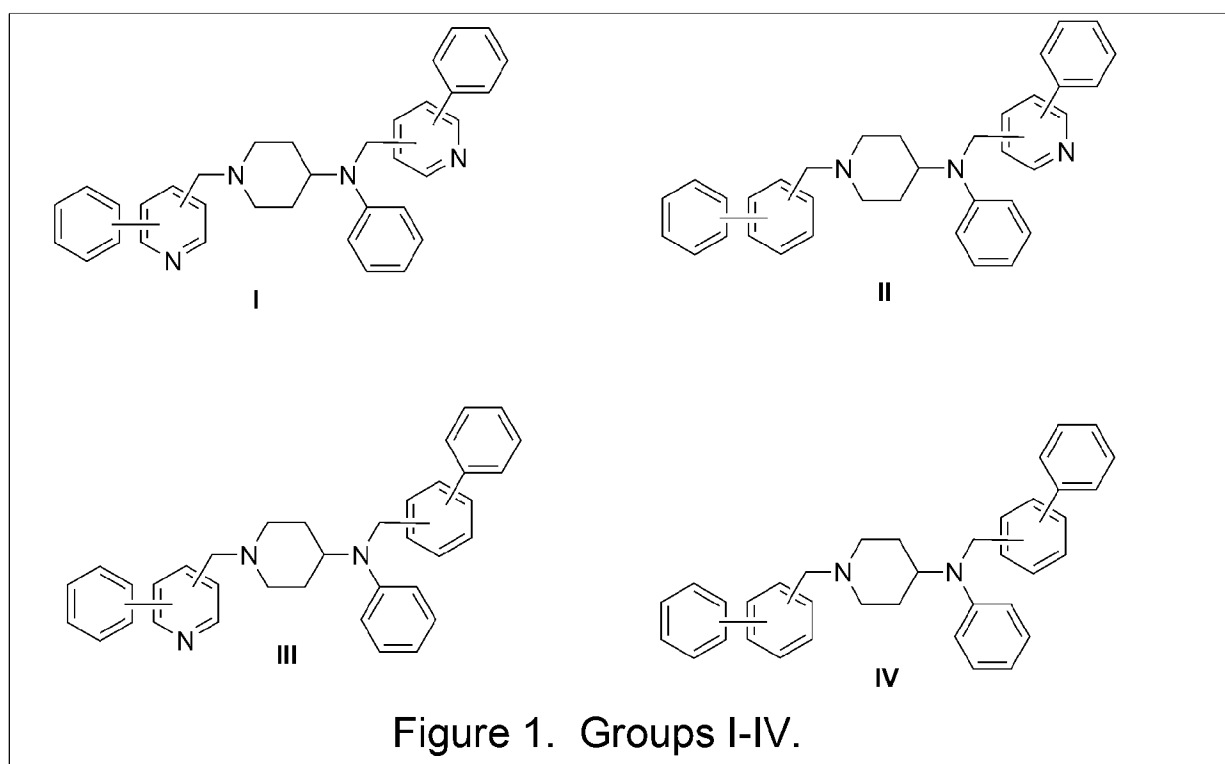
Group VI, claims 1-15, drawn to compounds and compositions with a pyridyl- pyrrolidinyl - pyridyl core where in formula 1 claim 1, l is 0; m is 0, X is NR₄, R₄ is phenyl, W1 = W2 = N. If this group is elected, a further election of a single disclosed species is also required.

Group VII, claims 1-15 drawn to compounds and compositions with a phenyl-pyrrolidinyl-pyridyl core where in formula 1 claim 1, l is 0; m is 0, X is NR₄, R₄ is phenyl, W1 = CH, W2 = N. If this group is elected, a further election of a single disclosed species is also required.

Group VIII, claims 1-15 drawn to compounds and compositions with a pyridyl-pyrrolidinyl - phenyl core where in formula 1 claim 1, l is 0; m is 0, X is NR₄, R₄ is phenyl, W1 = N, W2 = CH. If this group is elected, a further election of a single disclosed species is also required.

Group IX, claims 1-15 drawn to compounds and compositions with a cores other than groups I-VIII. If this group is elected, a further election of a single disclosed species is also required.

Group X, claims 31-46, drawn to method of “treating pathological conditions caused by reduced production of erythropoietin” with one of the compound groups I-IX, classified in class 514 subclass various, depending on species election. If this group is elected, a further election of a single disclosed species of I-IX useful in “treating pathological conditions caused by reduced production of erythropoietin”, is also required. In addition election of a single disclosed pathological condition is required. Further restriction based on the election will be made.



Art Unit: 1625

PLEASE NOTE: Claims 16-30 are drawn to nonstatutory use claims which are withdrawn from consideration. Cancellation is recommended. In addition claims 1-15, are drawn to compounds, despite the recitation of functional language "preventive or therapeutic agent for pathological conditions caused by reduced production of erythropoietin", they are drawn to compounds. Functional language as that of the instant claims carries no patentable weight in claims for compositions of matter see *Union Oil Co. of California v. Atlantic Richfield Co.* 54 USPQ2d 1227 where "composition claims cannot, as the appellant refiners argue, embrace only certain uses of that composition. (citing *In Re Spada*) Otherwise these composition claims would mutate into method claims." It is recommended that these claims be rewritten without intended use.

The inventions listed as Groups I-IX do not relate to a single general inventive concept under 35 USC 121 or PCT Rule 13.1 because:

PCT Rule 13.1 states that the international application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept ("requirement of unity of invention").

PCT Rule 13.2 states that the unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features.

Annex B, **Part 1(a)**, indicates that the application should relate to only one invention, of if there is more than one invention, inclusion is permitted if they are so linked to form a single general inventive concept.

Annex B **Part 1(b)**, indicates that "special technical features" means those technical features that as a whole define a contribution over the prior art.

Annex B **Part 1(c)**, further defines independent and dependent claims. Unity of invention only is concerned in relation to independent claims. Dependent claims are defined as a claim that contains all the features of another claim and is in the same category as the other claim. The category of a claim refers to the classification of claims according to subject matter e.g. product, process, use, apparatus, means, etc.

Annex B **Part 1(e)**, indicates that the permissible combinations of different categories of claims. **Part 1(e)I**, states that inclusion of an independent claim for a given product, an independent claim for a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an independent claim for a use of the said product is permissible.

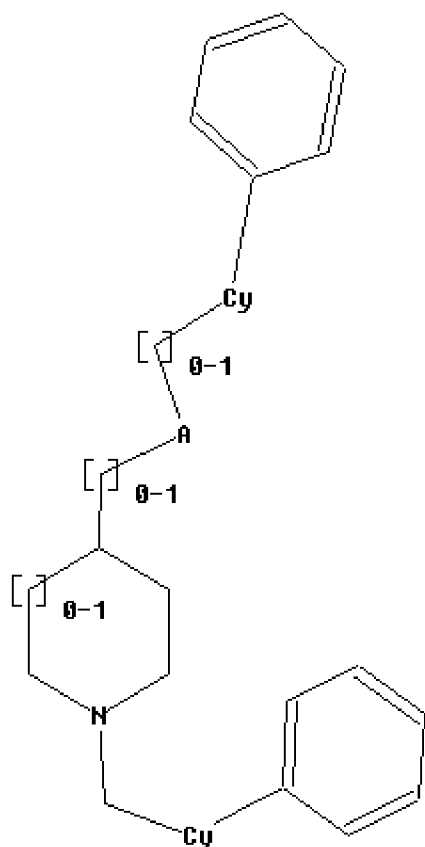
Annex B, **Part 1(f)**, indicates the "Markush practice" of alternatives in a single claim. **Part 1(f)I**, indicates the technical relationship and the same or corresponding special technical feature is considered to be met when (A) all alternatives have a common property or activity, and (B) a common structure is present or all alternatives belong to a recognized class of chemical compounds. Further defining (B), Annex B, **Part 1(f)(i-iii)**, the common structure must; a) occupy a large portion of their structure, or b) the common structure constitutes a structurally distinctive portion, or c) where the structures are equivalent and therefore a recognized class of chemical compounds, each member could be substituted for one another with the same intended result. That is, with a common or equivalent structure, there is an expectation relationship and the corresponding special technical feature result from a common (or equivalent) structure that is responsible for the common activity (or property). **Part 1(f) iv**, indicates that when all

Art Unit: 1625

alternatives of a Markush grouping can be differently classified, it shall not, taken alone, be considered justification for finding a lack of unity. **Part 1(f)v**, indicates that “When dealing with alternatives, if it can be shown that at least *one* Markush alternative is not novel over the prior art, the question of unity of invention shall be reconsidered by the examiner”

In the instant case, a search of the core of claim 1 gave numerous iterations and would not run to completion. Reproduced below:

Art Unit: 1625



=> 8 11

SAMPLE SEARCH INITIATED 15:48:06 FILE 'REGISTRY'

SAMPLE SCREEN SEARCH COMPLETED - 136951 TO ITERATE

1.5% PROCESSED 2000 ITERATIONS

0 ANSWERS

INCOMPLETE SEARCH (SYSTEM LIMIT EXCEEDED)

SEARCH TIME: 00.00.01

FULL FILE PROJECTIONS: ONLINE **INCOMPLETE**

BATCH **INCOMPLETE**

PROJECTED ITERATIONS: 2717150 TO 2760890

PROJECTED ANSWERS: 0 TO 0

L2

0 SEA SSS SAM L1

Art Unit: 1625

It is projected that nearly 3 million known compounds share the core as presented, thus no special technical feature is present.

Inventions I-IV and V are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product. See MPEP § 806.05(h). In the instant case at least the method of treating Pseudohypoaldosteronism can be accomplished by avoiding exercise.

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is *presented prior to* final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be **allowable**, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See “Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*; *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b),” 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996).

Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include all the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01. Filing of appropriate terminal disclaimer in anticipation of a rejoinder may speed prosecution and the process of rejoinder.

3. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and

Art Unit: 1625

specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David K. O'Dell whose telephone number is (571)272-9071. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rita Desai can be reached on (571) 272-0684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/537,407

Page 9

Art Unit: 1625

D.K.O.

/Rita J. Desai/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1625